

Center News

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A Newsletter for Federal Child Care Centers

Spring 2006

**THE GSA NATIONWIDE
NETWORK OF CHILD
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Uncle Sam's Academy for Tots

The playground of Uncle Sam's Academy for Tots Child Development Center, at the Robert J. Dole Federal Courthouse, in Kansas City, KS was dedicated in memory of Lahoma Dennis Yates on Thursday, April 6, 2006. The former Executive Director of the Greater Kansas City Federal Executive Board and a founding member of Uncle Sam's Academy for Tots Board, Ms. Yates served on the Child Care Board from its inception in 1992 until her death in 2005. As the Board President and as an active member, she was instrumental in the development of the Board's tuition assistance program and frequently directed their fund raising activities. She regularly served the Judges, U.S. Marshals, Agency Directors, and children at the annual Courthouse cookouts and pancake breakfasts. Ms. Yates was a great supporter and spokesperson for the Federal child care program and her family and friends remembered the center with tuition assistance donations at the time of her death.

Mark Hague, President of Uncle Sam's Academy for Tots Board, welcomed Brad Scott, GSA's Heartland Regional Administrator; Honorable John W. Lungstrum, Chief Judge for the District of Kansas; Joe Reardon, Mayor of the Unified Government of Kansas City, Kansas; and Steven N. Tanner, Chairperson of the Greater Kansas City Federal Executive Board, along with Ms. Yates' family for the unveiling of a plaque in her honor. Three large planters with trees and flowers were also placed on the playground in her memory. Guests from the Federal Courthouse and Federal agencies in the surrounding area toured the playground and child development center and were treated to a reception hosted by the child care Board.



Andover Child Care Center Celebrates Ribbon Cutting

On May 18, 2006 GSA Regional Administrator Dennis R. Smith together with Sheila M. Perry, IRS, Chief, Planning and Analysis, held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the newly renovated and expanded Kathy Herward Child Care Center at the IRS, Andover, MA. Other distinguished speakers included Town Manager Reginald (Buzz) Stappczynski; Eileen Z. Stern, GSA, National Director Office of Child Care; Robert E. Mattie, President, Mattie & O'Brien Contracting; Ann M. Dwyer, President, Herward Child Care Center Board of Directors; and GSA Assistant Regional Administrator Glenn C. Rotondo. *Continued on page 2*



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The Kathy Herward CCC is a GSA-owned facility operated under the Internal Revenue Service. Established in 1987, the center was one of the first in the GSA network. As design standards have changed significantly since its opening, the intention of the project was to bring the center in line with the current GSA Design Guide standards. In order to comply with the new standards many challenges needed to be addressed. Because this was a phased renovation project during which the center was to remain in full operation, modular classrooms were constructed in trailers outside the building. This was truly a challenge during the winter in Boston!

As a result of the expansion/renovation, over 3000 square feet of space has been added to the center and children, parents, and staff are enjoying a new state of the art facility. The success of this project is attributed to the dedication of the project team which included Malcolm Calliston, site coordinator, IRS; Terri Tarr, project manager, GSA; and Sherri Edwards RCCC, GSA, who also served as the assistant project manager and contracting officer on the team.

The Kathy Herward Child Care Center is accredited by NAEYC and serves 72 children ages infant to kindergarten.



Kindergarten: *before and after*



Playground After

Provider Appreciation Week

During the week of May 7-13, 2006 centers around the country celebrated Provider Appreciation Week. Staff members were honored in many different ways for the important work they do in caring for our children each day. The following are some of the highlights of the events that were planned by parents and board members to show their appreciation:

At SSA Metro West in Baltimore, MD the Board honored the teachers each day of the week with a different "surprise". On Monday the staff was treated to a continental breakfast, on Tuesday they received flowers, on Wednesday they received lanyards, on Thursday wallets with key rings and on Friday backpacks.

At SSA Woodlawn in Baltimore, MD the Parent Advisory Group honored the staff with a luncheon on May 17th and purchased smocks for the teachers to help them comply with the center's dress code.

At the Courtyard Kids Child Development Center in Central Islip, NY the parents went above and beyond to make this week extra special for the teachers. On Monday the staff were treated to a catered breakfast as well as a beautiful banner made by the children. There was also a fresh bouquet of flowers with all of the children's pictures waiting as the teachers walked in the door. On Tuesday the teachers all had massages! On Wednesday the board catered a delicious lunch. The teachers really loved spending the time together, it was such a treat. The parents and Board members seemed to have fun too. On Friday all of the teachers received tote bags with pictures of themselves and their class. If that wasn't nice enough, inside were lots of goodies.

All in all it was a great week and the teachers felt truly appreciated.

Provider Appreciation Week is celebrated every year during the week before Mother's Day.

<http://www.providerappreciation.org>

e-learning

On-line continuing education courses are one way for child care professionals to attain the credentials and training they will need under the new NAEYC accreditation system. Child Care Information Exchange at www.childcareexchange.com posts a list of on-line and degreed Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs. Just click on "School Directory".

NAEYC recommends that you verify that any continuing education courses you take are from an accredited institution. Through the Department of Education website you can access a national data base of accredited institutions.

<http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation>.

Save the Date !!

GSA's 17th Annual Child Care Conference: Growing, Sustaining and Achieving Quality

Join us in Chicago, the Windy City, for the 17th Annual GSA Child Care Conference at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, August 1-3, 2006. The conference will begin at noon on August 1 and end at 2 PM on August 3. Featured speakers include Kathy Buckley, America's First Hearing-Impaired Comedienne; Mark Ginsberg, PhD, Executive Director of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC); Dan Hodgins, PhD, Coordinator of Early Childhood Education, Mott Community College; Ella Jenkins, Musician and storyteller; and Michael Brandwein, educator and author.



We've invited institutions that provide distance learning opportunities to exhibit at this year's conference. This will provide participants with new training resources as they work toward meeting the educational requirements of the revised NAEYC Accreditation Criteria.

In addition Portland State University (PSU) will offer continuing education credits (CEU's) and University Credit for conference attendees.

1 graduate credit - Fee: \$80

1 undergraduate credit - Fee: \$60

Noncredit CEU - 1.5 (15 attendance hours) Fee: \$20 (\$35 after July 14, 2006)

Register online at the PSU website at www.ceed.pdx.edu/gsa. University Certification of CEU's will be available for pickup at the end of the final day of the conference.

Hotel and Conference Registration Information

Hyatt Regency McCormick Place
2233 South Martin L. King Drive
Chicago, Illinois

The Hotel rate is \$127 plus tax for single/double occupancy (each additional adult \$10 per night). Children under 18 are free. For hotel reservations call 1.800.233.1234. and ask for the GSA Child Care Conference room block.

Conference information is available on our web site at: www.gsa.gov/childcare
You can register on line at www.cmpinc.net/childcare

Registration fees and hotel rates increase after July 10.

Subsidy Programs Expanded

The **Coast Guard** pilot subsidy program has been expanded nationwide. Active duty members will be able to use a select group of accredited federal centers across the country. All Coast Guard active duty crew members and active duty reservists called to action for 180 days or longer are eligible. All questions on eligibility and application for the subsidy should be addressed to the GSA Heartland Finance Center, Judy Gonzales (816) 823-4578 or uscoastguard@gsa.gov. Check the website at www.gsa.gov/childcare for the list of eligible Federal child care centers and application forms.

Army Corp of Engineers (COE) employees may be eligible for the Military Child Care in your Neighborhood subsidy program administered by the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRA). COE employees should visit the [NACCRA Military/Army Partnerships website](http://www.naccra.org) at www.naccra.org. Even though COE employees are not specifically mentioned on this website they are eligible for the Army program and should follow those instructions from the website.

Of the GSA centers eligible for NAEYC Accreditation, 87% are now accredited.

Congratulations to the following centers on their recent re-accreditation:

- * Bannister Federal Center, Kansas City, MO, managed by KidCorp, Inc.
- * FERC Child Development Center , Washington, D.C., managed by Bright Horizons
- * USDA Child Development Center Washington, D.C. managed by Knowledge Learning Corp.



Back –Up Care Advantage Program

All Federal child care centers have the opportunity to join a nationwide network of centers offering back up child care services. Workplace Options has joined with Bright Horizons to create a national extended network of back-up care providers. The national extended network includes a select group of child care centers and providers ready to assist families when their regular child care arrangements are not available. Back-Up Care Advantage offers a unique opportunity for qualified child care centers to fill open spaces on a daily or weekly basis. There is no need to set aside spaces for back-up care. When back-up care is needed, families whose employer has a contract to participate in the Advantage program will contact Workplace Options' toll free number to arrange for care. Workplace Options' consultants contact centers with available capacity and reserve a space. Once care has been provided (or in the event of a late cancellation or no-show), payment will be sent to the center. By joining this network, centers will have the opportunity to introduce new families to your services as well as receive revenue for vacant spaces.

For more information on the Workplace Options – Bright Horizons Back-Up Care Advantage Program, please call or email Clinton Loh at [1-800-952-3586](tel:1-800-952-3586) clintonl@workplaceoptions.com.

Sign Up for NAEYC Accreditation Updates On-line

The NAEYC Accreditation E-Update is a free resource for program administrators, staff, and others interested in NAEYC Accreditation and raising the quality of programs for young children. Subscribe to the free NAEYC Accreditation E-Update on the NAEYC website, at www.naeyc.org/accreditation/e-update.asp.

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Contributions and Comments on Center News are welcome and encouraged.

Parents and center staff are encouraged to check the following website regularly: www.recalls.gov

